

Service Date: June 30, 1977

BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE REGULATION
MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF the Application)	UTILITY DIVISION
of Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.)	
for Authority to Increase Natural)	DOCKET NO. 6509
Gas Rates to Industrial Customers)	ORDER NO. 4359
and to Establish an Industrial)	
Rate Tariff.)	

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FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On June 1, 1977, Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. (MDU) filed its application for authority to increase natural gas rates to industrial customers by 2.24 per mcf, and for implementation of a purchased gas adjustment clause. The application also seeks the institution of an industrial natural gas rate tariff. Contracts would still be entered as regards individual customers' service conditions and volumes.
2. The application was accepted by the Commission on June 13, 1977. Notification of acceptance was given by letter to the industrial customers. The same letter stated that the application would set for hearing at a later time, and that a prehearing conference, if desired, should be requested.
3. On June 23, 1977, MDU filed a Motion for Temporary implementation of proposed natural gas rate schedule, 85-11-3, which embodies the proposed rate increase.
4. The Motion recites that the increased rate will apply on a "radically reduced" industrial sales volume, due primarily to the implementation of the second year of MDU's curtailment plan, as required by the F.P.C.
5. The Motion also states that six of Applicant's eleven industrial customers have already signed contracts which contemplate the existence of schedule 85-M-3.

6. There appears to be sufficient reason to justify temporary approval of this schedule pending hearings.

CONCLUSION OF LAW

1. This Commission has authority, under R.C.M. 1947, Sec. 70-113, as amended, to grant a temporary increase pending hearing.

2. The increase and tariff filing temporarily approved herein appear justified on the facts presented to the Commission. The requested purchase gas adjustment clause is, however, denied.

O R D E R

NOTE THEREFORE THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION ORDER'S THAT:

1. Applicant shall file a copy of Schedule 85-M-3, signed by a utility officer, effective for services rendered after July 1, 1977.

2. This is a temporary order. The increase approved herein is subject to rebate should the final Order in this Docket determine that a lesser increase than authorized by this Order is required.

DONE IN OPEN SESSION by a vote of 3-1, on June 28, 1977, with Commissioner Schneider dissenting.

GORDON E. BOLLINGER, Chairman

P.J. GILFEATHER, Commissioner

GEORGE TURMAN, Commissioner

THOMAS J. SCHNEIDER, Commissioner
voting to dissent.

ATTEST:

Bonnie Allen
Acting Secretary

(SEAL)

NOTICE: You are entitled to judicial review of this Order.
Judicial review may be obtained by filing within
thirty(30)days from the service of this Order a
petition for review, pursuant to Section 82-4216,
R.C.M. 1947.